GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1566
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2005
WAITING LIST FOR LANDLINE CONNECTIONS
Panda Shri Prabodh

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons awaiting landline connections, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for delay in providing the landline connections; and

(c) the steps being taken to provide the same expeditiously?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) The state-wise waiting list for landline connections as on 30-06-2005 is given in the Annexure.

(b) & (c): Most of the waiting list is in the rural areas, which are generally far flung. In such area, laying of cable and installation of line materials takes lot of time. Sometimes, denial of permission for digging by local authorities also causes delay in installation of telephones.

The following steps are taken to clear the waiting list:

(i) Relaxation by BSNL for laying outdoor cable from 2.5 Kms to 5.0 Kms for landline Exchanges.

(ii) Efforts are made to lay cables and install line materials at a faster pace.

(iii) A non-lapsable Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has been set up to give financial support to the telecom operators (both public and private) to encourage them, inter-alia, to provide phones in rural areas.

(iv) Increased provision of WLL and mobile phones.

Annexure

State-wise waiting list of landline connections as on 30-06- 2005

Sr.No.	Name of State/Circle	Waiting list(Fixed) as on 30-06-2005
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	248
2.	Andhra Pradesh	34484
3.	Assam	24056
4.	Bihar	103059
5.	Chhattisgarh	2512
6.	Gujarat	63324
7.	Haryana	75818
8.	Himachal Pradesh	46358
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	74251
10.	Jharkhand	16781
11.	Karnataka	85270
12.	Kerala	376228
13.	Madhya Pradesh	9262
14.	Maharashtra (-) Mumbai	156153
15.	North East	9603
16.	Orissa	27589
17.	Punjab	44724
18.	Rajasthan	144925

19.	Tamil Nadu Chennai	(-)	108234
20.	Uttaranchal		4974
21.	Uttar Pradesh		150375
22.	West Bengal Kolkata	(-)	135531
23.	Kolkata		3117
24.	Chennai		1122
25.	Delhi		0
26.	Mumbai		0
		Total:	1697998

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